

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-10 of the present application. Claims 1-18 are currently pending. Claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In the Final Official Action of September 20, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 11-13, 15-16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,473,430 to SREEDHARAN et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,289,001 to SMYK in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,633,569 to HEMMADY. Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over SREEDHARAN et al. in view of SMYK in further view of HEMMADY in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,903,559 to ACHARYA. Furthermore, in the above-referenced Advisory Action, the Examiner has refused to enter the amendments submitted in the Reply filed December 8, 2006.

Upon entry of the present Reply, claims 11-18 will have been cancelled. However, Applicants submit that the amendments should not be construed as an admission to the propriety of the Examiner's objects and rejections. Applicants have cancelled claims 11-18 as set forth herein, merely to expedite prosecution and issuance of a patent. In view of the herein-contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the Application is in a condition for allowance.

In response to the Advisory Action, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the cancellation of claims 11-18. In this regard, Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion that claims 11-18 are not allowable as each of these claims recites a particular combination of features not disclosed by the prior art and are therefore patentable over the

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prior art. Furthermore, Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion that features reciting "over a signaling channel" and "over a proxy signaling channel" in amendments made to claim 11 submitted in the Reply filed December 8, 2006 raise new issues that would require further consideration and search.

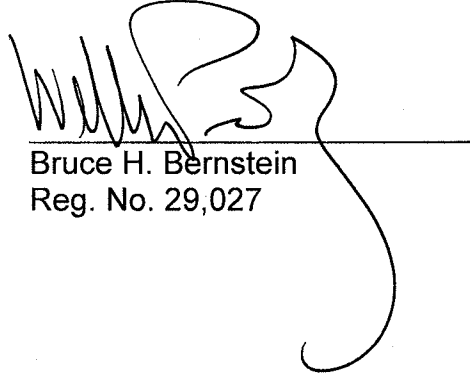
Applicants note the status of the present application as being an after final rejection and with respect to such status believes that there is a clear basis for the entry of the present amendment consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicants note amendments after final are not entered as a matter of right; however, Applicants submit that the amendments made to the pending claims do not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration. It is also submitted that the present amendment does not raise the question of new matter. Moreover, the present amendment clearly places the present application in condition for allowance.

If any additional extension of time is deemed to be necessary to maintain the pendency of the application, including any extension of time fees for entry of an Examiner's Amendment, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby requested and authorization is hereby provided to charge any necessary fees to maintain the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Amendment, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip CUNETTO et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Bernstein', is written over a horizontal line. A long, sweeping vertical stroke extends from the right side of the signature down towards the bottom of the page.

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